

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 069162

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, EAID, RO

SUBJECT: KENNEDY/JAVITS BILL FOR AID TO ROMANIA

1. ON MARCH 24, SENATOR KENNEDY INTRODUCED THE FOLLOWING
BILL AUTHORIZING \$20 MILLION IN RECONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE
TO ROMANIA.

2. BEGIN TEXT S. 1124. BE IT ENACTED BY THE SENATE AND
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, THAT THIS ACT MAY BE CITED AS THE
"ROMANIA EARTHQUAKE RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ACT OF 1977".
SEC. 2 CHAPTER 9 OF PART I OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT
OF 1961 IS AMENDED BY ADDING AT THE END THEREOF THE
FOLLOWING NEW SECTION: "SEC. 495-. ROMANIA EARTH-
QUAKE RELIEF AND REHABILITATION. -(A) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY
OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, THE PRESIDENT IS AUTHORIZED TO PRO-
VIDE ASSISTANCE, ON SUCH TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS HE MAY DE-
TERMINE, FOR RELIEF, REHABILITATION, AND RECONSTRUCTION
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RECENT EARTHQUAKE IN ROMANIA. THERE IS AUTHORIZED TO BE
APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT TO CARRY OUT THE
PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION \$20,000,000 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
1977, WHICH AMOUNT IS AUTHORIZED TO REMAIN AVAILABLE UNTIL
EXPENDED. (B) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW,

THE AMOUNT AUTHORIZED TO BE APPROPRIATED IN SUBSECTION (A)

OF THIS SECTION MAY BE USED ONLY FOR THE PURPOSES SPECIFIED IN THIS SECTION. THE AUTHORITY CONTAINED IN SECTION 610 (A) OF THIS ACT MAY NOT BE USED TO TRANSFER FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE UNDER THIS SECTION". END TEXT.

3. IN A STATEMENT ON THE SENATE FLOOR, KENNEDY ALSO MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENT:

4. BEGIN QUOTE ADDITIONALLY, WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION WILL FULLY CONSIDER OTHER KINDS OF ASSISTANCE TO ROMANIA WHICH MAY BE APPROPRIATE TO HELP ITS PEOPLE OVERCOME THE HUMAN AND SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS PRODUCED BY THE EARTHQUAKE. OFFICIALS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT HAVE INDICATED TO US THAT SUCH ASSISTANCE MIGHT INCLUDE HOUSING GUARANTEE CREDITS, LOW INTEREST LOANS, AND PUBLIC LAW 480 COMMODITIES. IF SUCH ASSISTANCE IS PROVIDED BY THE UNITED STATES AND REQUIRES ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION, WE ARE PREPARED TO SUPPORT ITS ENACTMENT. FOR NOW HOWEVER, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION MOVE AHEAD ON THE BILL WE ARE INTRODUCING TODAY. END QUOTE.
CHRISTOPHER

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